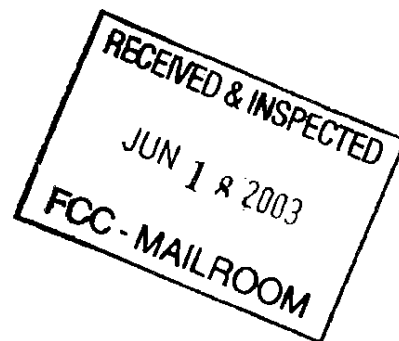


To: ecfs@fcc.gov  
Cc: Peter Moynihan  
Subject: media consolidation/regulations

*Docket No. 02-277*

06/01/03  
Peter Moynihan  
P.O. Box 98  
Johnson, Vt 05656

SUNSHINE PERIOD



Dear F.C.C. Commissioner,

It is my understanding that you are studying the effects of your current regulation in regard to media consolidation. I am writing to you because I fear that the F.C.C. is about to further eliminate important barriers to media consolidation.

Comments I have heard from Commissioner Michael Powell lead me to believe he feels that deregulation is the correct course. Some argue that with the coming of cable and satellite television as well, as the Internet, that we now have many more outlets than we used to when there were only the three major networks. However, it is my contention that even though there are many more outlets they are all in the hands of a powerful few.

I understand that despite the increase in channels there are only five major companies who own 92% of the outlets. These multi-billion dollar media conglomerates are growing larger and larger as they buy up their competitors and independent broadcasters and then centralize their operations at the expense of local communities.

Since 1996, almost one-third of the country's radio station owners have been bought out by conglomerates. Clear Channel Communications, (C.C.C.) owns more than 1,200 radio stations nationwide. I am quite sure you are familiar with what transpired in Minot, North Dakota in January, 2002 when there was a toxic train derailment and no one could be reached at six local radio stations to report this disaster.

More than three-quarters of Americans now watch channels that are owned by just five companies and those companies own dozens of the best known names across the media. One example: Viacom owns CBS; UPN; MTV; BET; Nickelodeon; Showtime; Paramount Pictures; thirty-nine local television stations; the nation's second largest radio chain; more than 100,000 billboards; more than Blockbuster stores; and Simon & Schuster, the publishing house.

A survey was done a couple of months ago in which 72% of Americans had heard nothing on the networks about the current review of regulations governing media consolidation. How self-serving is that? I did not see any coverage on any of the hearings that were held and I would argue that we already have too much consolidation.

I feel that despite all of this that there is also a deep conflict of interest on behalf of Commissioner Powell. It has come to my attention that Commissioner Powell on many occasions over the years has been, shall we say, "wined and dined", in Las Vegas by the owners of the media conglomerates who he is supposed to be regulating. I feel that Commissioner Powell should be investigated in regards to this conflict of interest. How can we trust Commissioner Powell to protect public interest when he continues to take "gifts" from the industry which he is supposed to be regulating? How can the public expect a fair and just decision on this matter!!!!!!

Sincerely,

*Peter Moynihan*  
*(802) 635-7775*

To Commissioner Michael Copps

I was watching C-Span

I want better programming.

I hope it will become possible. Keep up the good work.

Barbara B. Barr

0227

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